



COUNTY OF ERIE

Erie County Planning Commission
Erie County Department of Planning
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Will Rogers
Chair

Charles Casey
Vice-Chair

ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 9th, 2017

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, March 9th, 2017** in the Erie County Department of Planning, 150 East Front Street – Suite 300, Erie, PA 16507. This was the first meeting since adopting the new membership structure.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC Members	Representing/ Council District	Municipality:
Matt Waldinger	1	Millcreek
Charles Casey	3	City of Erie
August Neff	5	North East Township
Flory Kondzielski	6	Waterford Township
Paul Pangratz	7	Girard Township
Pat Pfadt	ECATO	Venango Township
Will Rogers	ECAB	North East Borough
Bill Kuhn	Alt #1	Platea Borough
Amanda Bair	Alt #3	Fairview Township
Planning Department Staff		
Katherine Wyrosdick	Director	
Ryan Anderson	Staff	
Guests		
Casey DiBasilio	Public	
Audrey Penny	Public	
Brendon Hodges	Public	

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kathy Wyrosdick Called the meeting to order, and the pledge of allegiance was given.

II. Nomination of Officers

Will Rogers was nominated to Chair by Gus Neff, and was voted in unanimously.

Charles Casey volunteered for Vice Chair and was voted in unanimously.

III. Hearing of the Public

Three Gannon University nursing students were in attendance for a class on local governmental involvement for medical professionals.

IV. Approval of the November 9th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were accepted unanimously as presented.

V. New Business

- Mr. Casey pointed out that there was not a quorum of Executive Board members at the November meeting, calling into question the vote to approve new bylaws. However, under the old bylaws, County Council had the authority to adopt new bylaws, and they have done so.
 - The new (current) bylaws give the Erie County Planning Commission (ECPC) the authority to change and update their own bylaws.
 - Kathy will request the County Solicitor to advise if an official vote from the Planning Commission is necessary to enact new By-laws or if County Council's approval of the by-laws is sufficient.

VI. Communications

1. Planning Director's Report

a. Planning Commission

- i. Regular monthly meetings this year will be held in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Library. In future years, the ECPC may wish to meet at more locations throughout the county.
- ii. Current planning initiatives will need to be voted on by the Commission as part of adoption. Updates will be provided at ECPC meetings as these plans are forming.
- iii. ECPC members were presented with binders containing information on the role of the Commission, and Department of Planning staff and programs.

b. Cultural Heritage Plan

- i. This plan will come to the ECPC for a vote in either May or June. It hopes to guide Erie County with actions we can take for the goodness of our historic resources and unique culture. An inventory of historic buildings in the County (from a previous project) is available at www.eriebuildings.info/

c. Long Range Transportation Plan

- i. This is the 5 year amendment required for the County to be eligible for Federal transportation funds. It doesn't go through the planning commission, and is set to be adopted the following Wednesday at the intermodal center.
 - d. Parks, Trails, and Recreation (PTR)
 - i. The previous greenways plan was never adopted due to ineffective public participation, so is essentially just data.
 - ii. This update will focus on implementable steps, provide a framework for Act 13 funds, and help shape the County's role in parks and rec, seeing as the county doesn't own significant parklands or right of way.
 - iii. An RFP for consulting services has been drafted and will be advertised during the summer, anticipated to take over a year after that.
 - e. Municipal Assistance Program
 - i. This is the 'everything else' done in the Department of Planning. This includes assistance requested in creating new zoning or other ordinances. The county's model zoning ordinance has also been used by some municipalities on their own.
 - ii. MS4: currently gauging municipalities' interest in County assistance.
 - iii. "War room"/ Comprehensive plans
 - 1. County planning has hosted action team meetings with City of Erie staff and other groups regarding implementation of the Erie Refocused comprehensive plan. It has been a very successful process, and hope to repeat this type of process with other municipalities, depending on needs and capacity.
- 2. Commissioner reports: none.
 - a. Mr. Casey commended Ms. Wyrosdick's work toward implementing the City of Erie's comprehensive plan.
 - b. Mr. Rogers expressed admiration regarding the interlaced membership of the ECPC and various action teams, committees, etc.

VII. Old business

- 1. Clarification that ECPC will meet each month in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Library, unless highlighted as cancelled or another location.
- 2. The May 11th meeting location is yet to be determined, and plan to vote on adoption of the Cultural Heritage Plan.
- 3. Discussion on various funding sources, including Downtown Improvement Funds, RACP, and Multimodal Funds.

VIII. Public comments or questions: none

IX. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:45 by Mr. Casey, seconded by Mr. Kuhn. Unanimous.